USET Resolution No. 2005:016

SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes’ leadership; and

WHEREAS, the health status of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is of paramount importance to the USET member tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has established and funded Epidemiology Centers in collaboration with Tribal entities to deliver evidence based health care throughout Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, epidemiology services have been identified as a priority by the USET member tribes to measure the health status of their Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the USET Epidemiology Center was funded and established in fiscal year 2000; and

WHEREAS, the current IHS Loan Repayment Program does not include all public health professionals as priority positions; and

WHEREAS, the Loan Repayment Program will allow for public health professionals, such as epidemiologists, to be considered for loan repayment should they be listed as priority; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of public health professionals in the Loan Repayment Program will assist in recruitment and promote retention of qualified individuals within USET for the direct benefit of USET member tribes; and

WHEREAS, the IHS Division of Epidemiology has endorsed the inclusion of the Epidemiology Centers’ public health professionals in the Loan Repayment Program; and

WHEREAS, the USET organization employs several public health professionals that could potentially qualify for the IHS Loan Repayment Program; and

WHEREAS, the USET organization continues to grow in capacity and envisions recruiting additional public health professionals; and

WHEREAS, the ability to offer a potential source for loan repayment will be attractive to prospective employees; and

WHEREAS, a resolution of support from the governing body of the employing organization is required by the IHS for consideration; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors strongly endorses and supports the inclusion of public health professionals, employed by USET, in the IHS Loan Repayment Program; and, be it further

"Because there is strength in Unity"
RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors encourages the Administration and Congress to increase the level of funding for the IHS Loan Repayment Program to fund such inclusions and/or additions; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Health Committee requests a formal presentation regarding the IHS Loan Repayment Program during Impact Week, February 7-10, 2005 to address the process of priority position selection.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 28, 2004.

Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly M. Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.